

model school-to-work programs. That may be why she was appointed to the National Commission on Teaching in America's Future and the Education Committee of the States, where she serves as a powerful voice for California.

She has also worked to start workshops all across the country to encourage broad education reform.

But education is just one of the issues on which she has made her mark. From her seat in one of California's most diverse assembly districts, she fought for transportation improvements that are creating hundreds of new jobs, for child care, for grandparents raising their grandchildren, for the growth of high-tech business in California, for basic rights for the homeless, and for reform of California's workmen's compensation laws.

When she became chair of California assembly's insurance committee, she was the first woman and the first minority to do so.

When she became chair of the revenue and taxation committee, she was also the first woman to do that. She has blazed a trail of innovation and accomplishment on every issue that she has faced.

My colleagues, not only have we gained a tireless and effective new champion for the 37th District of California, a woman with almost unlimited interests and abilities, we have also gained a sage and experienced legislator, and in keeping with her first career I believe she can teach us a great deal.

Join me now, my colleagues, in welcoming our newest colleague, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD].

Mr. BROWN of California. I am of course going to yield to the gentlewoman from California [Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD] to make a brief response immediately, but are there any other Members from California who would like to say a word? If not, then I would now at this time again present the gentlewoman to talk and invite her under my 1-minute to respond briefly to the welcome that she has just received.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, Members, I am honored to represent the outstanding constituents of the 37th Congressional District, a district that mirrors America because it is one of the most diverse districts in the State of California. The constituents of the 37th Congressional District are hard-working and share the same concerns with Americans about crime, jobs, security, taxes, health care, and the future.

My constituents include my family, who have traveled afar to come here today for this very historic event, and I would like to have them acknowledged in the gallery.

My campaign theme was to Choose Hope, and it drew inspiration from my grandchildren, Ayanna Demaris Thomas, and Myles Chandler McDonald. My

promise to the constituents was that I would take Choose Hope to Washington because, for me, Hope represents the American agenda that speaks to opportunity to fulfill dreams, quality education, job preparation and training, but expands global work opportunities, job creation through business incentives and transportation projects while maintaining health security for seniors and protection for our children.

I am also going to foster gender equity in health research projects. So I have come today to work with you as a team so that we can all forge an American agenda for all of the people of the United States as well as California in a bipartisan effort. I do welcome your support and thank you so much.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER. The Chair will take 1-minute speeches.

NO EXCUSE FOR 40-PERCENT TAX RATE ON MIDDLE-INCOME FAMILIES

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday millions and millions of Americans paid their taxes all across this country. Unfortunately, most of them found that the Government was taking more and more of their hard-earned dollars, and they were keeping less and less to support their families.

The tax burden on the average American family is outrageous. The total tax bill for an average family is almost 40 percent. Most Americans will spend more on taxes than they do on food, shelter, clothing, health care combined. Think of that; it is unbelievable.

Yesterday, during debate, one of the participants on the other side noted that taxes are what we pay for civilization. Now, I am mystified as to where that bit of wisdom was gleaned. There is no excuse for a 40-percent tax rate on middle-income families. That is not civilization; that is something close to tyranny.

The American people have every right to be upset about high taxes, and we have an obligation to try and change tax and spend Washington. It is time we give tax relief to the American people, and we ought to do it right now.

CFS IS A DEVASTATING INFECTIOUS DISEASE

(Mr. NADLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, a recently published book, *Osler's Web*, by Hillary Johnson, charges with impressive evidence that the Federal Center for Disease Control has ignored sub-

stantial clinical and epidemiological evidence that chronic fatigue syndrome is a devastating infectious disease caused by a specific virus rather than a psychosomatic illness as the CDC has claimed. Miss Johnson asserts that there is impressive evidence the chronic fatigue syndrome is, in fact, an immunological disease with many of the same characteristics as AIDS, that HHV-6, a virus may be a precipitating factor or a cofactor in CFS and in other immunological diseases, including AIDS, and that distinguished scientists who have come to the same or similar conclusion have been systematically ostracized and denied funding for the research by a small clique at the Center for Disease Control.

I have already contacted Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala requesting that she investigate these disturbing allegations, and I now urge my colleagues to join me in directing the GAO to look into this matter as well.

TAX DAY IN AMERICA

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, the most dreaded day of the year arrived yesterday. It was tax day in America. The Republicans tried to make yesterday a little better by passing a constitutional amendment to require a two-thirds vote to raise taxes.

Unfortunately, the tax and spenders in Congress prevented us from doing that. The liberals praise themselves for having the courage to raise taxes. That's not courage, that's taking the easy way out. That's why we had a record tax increase in 1993. It shouldn't be that easy.

A recent survey showed that 1 percent of Americans believe taxes are too low. By preventing us from passing this tax limitation amendment, the tax lovers in this Congress have defied the will of 99 percent of America.

We could have made yesterday a little better. Instead, the liberals are trying to ensure that every day is tax day in America.

TRIBUTE TO REX CHAO

(Ms. MOLINARI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MOLINARI. Mr. Speaker, last week, a senseless tragedy took from us a great and giving friend. Rex Chao, a student at Johns Hopkins University and an intern in my office, was murdered in very cold blood. It is difficult to not think of Rex in the most alive of terms. He loved being here in the U.S. Capitol, immersed in Government. He was excited by the Republican revolution and he was driven by his love and confidence in our Nation.

My office and I struggled with the most fitting tribute we could give our friend and decided that it should be a 1-